

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 7, 2003, is acknowledged. The Examiner indicated that claims 5, 8-11, 17, 18 and 25 were objected to as being in dependent form but would be allowable if written in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations set forth in claim 5. The latter has been now cancelled. Claims 2 and 4 now dependent from claim 1 as amended and therefore are believed to be in allowable form. Claim 8 has been cancelled and rewritten in independent form as new claim 26.

Claim 9 has been cancelled and rewritten in independent form as new claim 27. Claim 10 has been amended to depend from new claim 27. Claim 11 has been cancelled as it appears to be redundant in view of claim 18, now new claim 29.

Claims 12-15 have been cancelled. Claim 17 has been cancelled and rewritten in independent form as new claim 28.

Claim 18 has been cancelled and rewritten in independent form as new claim 29. Claim 24 has been cancelled and rewritten in independent form to include the limitations set forth in claim 25 and is now new claim 30.

It is noted that claims 19 and 21-23 were allowed.


It is believed that the application now includes only allowed claims and a review of the Office Actions indicate that no objections to the drawings and specification are present. The case therefore appears to be in allowable form.

If there are any formalities outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney in order to expedite prosecution of the application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 13-3393 for any insufficient fees under 37 CFR §§ 1.16 or 1.17, or credit any overpayment of fees.

Respectfully submitted,

1/16/04
Date of Signature


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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time
Fee Transmittal form